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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6523 (as amended by House "A")\*

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF FIRE CHIEFS AT CERTAIN STATE FACILITIES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill gives the UConn and Southbury Training School fire chiefs, or anyone serving as fire officer-in-charge for these entities, the same authority as their municipal counterparts when responding to a fire, service call, or other emergency in their jurisdiction. The UConn fire chief oversees both the UConn Storrs campus and UConn Health Center.

In doing so, the bill requires these state facility fire officials to:

1. control and direct emergency activities at the scene;
2. order people to leave any building or place near such fire, service call, or emergency to protect them from injury;
3. temporarily block any public highway, street, or private right-of way;
4. enter any building where a fire is in progress or near, or where there is reasonable cause to believe a fire is in progress, extinguish the fire or prevent it from spreading;
5. generally inspect all buildings (except inside a private dwelling), structures, or other places within his or her jurisdiction, to prevent fires;
6. order disengagement or decoupling of certain vehicles (e.g., trains) to extinguish a fire or prevent its spread; and
7. take command of any industrial fire brigade or fire chief when such firefighters have been called to a fire scene (CGS § 7-313e).

\*House Amendment "A" eliminates the Connecticut Valley Hospital's fire chief from the list and makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/21/2013)